

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A ball joint comprising:
a seamless housing having at least one opening and an inner chamber;
a ball stud disposed in said chamber of said seamless housing and having an outer surface; and
a resilient member fixedly attached to said outer surface of said ball stud.
2. (Original) The ball joint according to Claim 1, wherein said ball stud has a first axis and second axis transverse to the first axis, an intersection of the first axis and the second axis defining a center of oscillation, wherein said ball stud is normally centered on the center of oscillation.
3. (Original) The ball joint according to Claim 2, wherein when a first force is applied to said ball stud, said ball stud is caused to oscillate about the center of oscillation within a predetermined angle relative to the normally centered position, and wherein the predetermined angle is within the range of from about 0 degrees to about 40 degrees.
4. (Currently Amended) The ball joint according to Claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein said resilient member is formed of a material having a predetermined hardness to thereby apply a restoring force to maintain or return said ball stud to the normally centered position.
5. (Currently Amended) The ball joint according to Claim 1, wherein said seamless housing includes a pair of openings.

6 - 7. Cancelled

8. (Original) The ball joint according to Claim 1, wherein said ball stud includes a ball portion and a shaft extending outwardly from said ball portion through said at least one opening.

9. (Original) The ball joint according to Claim 1, wherein said inner chamber is generally spherical shaped and an outer surface of said resilient member is generally spherical shaped.

10. (Currently Amended) The ball joint according to Claim 1, wherein said resilient ball member is fixedly attached to the outer surface of said ball stud with an adhesive.

11. (Currently Amended) The ball joint according to Claim 1, wherein an outer surface of said resilient ball member frictionally engages said inner chamber of said seamless housing.

12. (Original) The ball joint according to Claim 1, wherein said resilient member is formed from one of rubber and neoprene.

13. (Currently Amended) A ball joint for a vehicle having steering wheel, said ball joint comprising:

a seamless housing having at least one opening and an inner chamber;

a ball stud disposed in said chamber of said seamless housing and having an outer surface; and

a resilient member fixedly attached to said outer surface of said ball stud, wherein said ball stud has a first axis and second axis transverse to the first axis, an intersection of the first axis and the second axis defining a center of oscillation, wherein said ball stud is normally centered on the center of oscillation, and wherein

said resilient ball member is formed of a material having a predetermined hardness to thereby apply a restoring force to maintain or restore said ball stud to the normally centered position.

14. (Original) The ball joint according to Claim 13, wherein when a first force is applied to said ball stud by turning of a vehicle steering wheel, said ball stud is caused to oscillate about the center of oscillation within a predetermined angle relative to the normally centered position, and wherein the predetermined angle is within the range of from about 0 degrees to about 40 degrees.

15. (Currently Amended) The ball joint according to Claim 13, wherein said seamless housing includes a pair of openings.

16 - 17. Cancelled

18. (Original) The ball joint according to Claim 13, wherein said ball stud includes a ball portion and a shaft extending outwardly from said ball portion through said at least one opening.

19. (Original) The ball joint according to Claim 13, wherein said inner chamber is generally spherical shaped and an outer surface of said resilient member is generally spherical shaped.

20. (Currently Amended) The ball joint according to Claim 13, wherein said resilient ball member is fixedly attached to the outer surface of said ball stud with an adhesive.

21. (Currently Amended) The ball joint according to Claim 13, wherein an outer surface of said resilient ball member frictionally engages said inner chamber of said seamless housing.

22. (Original) The ball joint according to Claim 13, wherein said resilient member is formed from one of rubber and neoprene.

23. (Currently Amended) A tie rod end adapted for use in a vehicle having a steering wheel for controlling steerable wheels, said tie rod end comprising:

a seamless housing having at least one opening and an inner chamber;

a stem extending outwardly from said seamless housing;

a ball stud disposed in said chamber of said seamless housing and having an outer surface, wherein said ball stud has a first axis and second axis transverse to the first axis, an intersection of the first axis and the second axis defining a center of oscillation, and wherein said ball stud is normally centered on the center of oscillation; and

a resilient member fixedly attached to said outer surface of said ball stud, wherein said resilient ball member is formed of a material having a predetermined hardness to thereby apply a restoring force to maintain or restore said ball stud to the normally centered position, and wherein when a first force is applied to said ball stud by turning of a vehicle steering wheel, said ball stud is caused to oscillate about the center of oscillation within a predetermined angle relative to the normally centered position, and wherein the predetermined angle is within the range of from about 0 degrees to about 40 degrees.

24. (Currently Amended) The tie rod end according to Claim 23, wherein said seamless housing includes a pair of openings.